

Flathead County Road and Bridge Advisory Committee
Advisory Committee Meeting
April 9, 2009 – **7:00 pm**
Solid Waste District Board Room – County Landfill

1. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Charles Lapp – Chairman, Tom Sands, Karl Schrade

Committee Members Absent: Mike Schlegel – Vice-Chairman, Dave Hilde

Staff Present: Public Works Director Dave Prunty, Operations Manager Guy Foy, Administrative Assistant Mike Pence, Recording Secretary Patti Vernarsky, Planning & Zoning Director Jeff Harris

Public Present: None

2. Introductory Remarks

No introductory remarks.

3. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes – Action Required

Tom Sands would like to clarify a comment to use the road advisory committee to address subdivision maintenance and not the committee for the changes in the road standards previously mentioned.

Tom Sands moves to approve the minutes with the above changes from the March 19, 2009 meeting, Karl Schrade seconds the motion. All in favor; motion passed, minutes approved.

4. Action Agenda – **No Items Requiring Action**

5. Director's Report

a. Transportation Plan Update with Jeff Harris

Jeff Harris distributed maps displaying the existing ADT traffic volumes, which is being used in the Flathead County Transportation Plan. He displayed a large map of the future functional classifications that he has been working with Peccia on. He stated the maps numbers are attached to the MDT modeling study. He continued that the MDT study was held up for 3-4 months, and MDT had called to say the first run of the model is finished with the existing conditions. Jeff relayed Peccia's comment saying the model looks pretty good and would validate with the road counts from the county. Continuing that a realistic approach be

taken and not over to inflate, because if over inflate on the population is done then the trip generation needs to be over inflated also. Jeff stated that based on the time that has gone by, the socioeconomic analysis needs to be brought up to date. He continued explaining that once MDT has run first model, the consultants and staff will review, then finally a projection model is run. He has asked for three scenarios a low, moderate and high growth scenario. He stated currently with the economy downturn, the projection will follow low or moderate scenario.

Karl asked Jeff how he gets a projective study when there isn't any amount of density on a specific road. Jeff replied by working with plans and with developments to determine where the growth is going, basically Planning & Zonings best guess. He continued that the valley was split up into sub areas, guessed on the average density, then on the assumption by 2030 that most of that area would be subdivided. All of those were added together then brought down proportionately. He stated that where areas are planned and zoned there is a better guess for growth, but zoning does change too.

Charles asked what the significance of the boxed in area is. Jeff replied for trip assignments because most of the employment in the valley is assigned to the Kalispell area. Charles stated the traffic volumes are realistic for what the county has. Tom Sands would like an overlay of the roads that are paved in this area. Charles asked if the classifications are based on projected or current vehicle trips. Jeff replied the classifications are basically in the middle.

Jeff commented on the population growth table on page 7, stating there is a county wide growth of about 2.3%. He continued that the cities are growing much faster than the county, especially Kalispell since the city has been so aggressive in their growth.

Mike Pence asked when Peccia would meet with the committee again. Jeff replied maybe in 2 months, depending on MDT and the modeling.

Charles commented on the projected dwelling units table on page 9, with an estimated 38,000 dwelling units, but by 2030 there would be 55,000, not quite 1,000 a year. He stated that Adele at the Treasurers' should be able to identify what is residential versus open land. Dave Prunty stated that on the landfill side, there are approximately 37,000 assessments sent out.

Dave Prunty asked if the 61% of residents living outside the incorporated areas is dropping. Jeff replied yes a little by annexation but will not vary that much.

b. Current Developments Maintained

Dave Prunty explained the Subdivision and Platting Act is a law. He explained under the direction of the county, the road department did not take on any new

roads from 1983 and forward. He stated that there have been a few roads since then at the discretion of the county.

Tom stated he has asked for all the subdivisions the county had acquired from 1973 to 1983 from Paula. He stated the committee, staff and commissioners can then look at whether these roads are arterials, collectors, local roads, etc plus the traffic counts and bus route to determine if the county should be maintaining these roads.

Karl stated the county should only maintain through roads. Tom Sands stated there needs to be justification on what should be maintained or not.

Dave Prunty stated the staff is continuing the building of the road list including the subdivisions and years. Tom asked about the Kings Loop Subdivision having a date of 1970 when he worked on it in 1978. Dave Prunty stated the county should not be plowing driveways and there should be some criteria for maintenance. Tom stated the criteria should be classification of the road, not built to a certain width, traffic counts, bus routes, etc.

Mike Pence asked if some of the other counties are doing this. Dave replied that maybe Lewis & Clark County. Charles stated the cost of maintenance averages approximately \$2500 a mile in private subdivision for plowing, de-icing, etc. He stated the cost is per plowing and not per hour.

Karl commented that maintenance on roads where there are a certain number of people involved. Dave replied that a density factor should be included in the criteria; the county should not be plowing for just one driveway.

Dave Prunty recommended to the committee to get back together and compile criteria for maintenance on roads for a recommendation to the commissioners. Charles asked about having to back up in order to maintain certain areas. Guy replied the county is always backing up to clean intersections, especially in congested areas, such as Evergreen and subdivisions.

Tom stated that if taxpayers want their roads maintained the taxpayers need to vote in more on a mil levy. Karl asked if a specific area can be assessed. Mike Pence replied the county can establish road maintenance districts.

c. Dust Cost Share Applications Update

Dave Prunty stated the final two pages show the roads that have been submitted through the applications for the cost share program. He stated that 8.5 miles have applied for the black oil, where as 15 miles of magnesium chloride has been requested. He continued that currently the contract is being worked on by Peccia to ensure everything is correct.

Charles voiced his concerns with contractors out of the area and not knowing the roads. Dave Prunty commented about accepting the lowest bid but the county also has the ability to state a contractor has not had enough experience. He commented that Mike Schlegel set up a meeting with Jack David from the Forest Service about utilizing their contacts and bid specs.

Tom asked if there is money left over, will it be used to fix some other roads. Questions were asked about the guarantee of the dust abatement, and Tom didn't feel this program is going to save money, because it's not guaranteed. Dave replied that an alternate bid is being looked into for the guarantee. Tom stated he has not seen a dust abatement last all year. Dave stated the county is not stating the program is going to be a dust cure.

Mike Pence informed the committee of the Badrock RSID and 48 North Engineer submitted the information to the commissioners, which can now pass the resolution of intention. He continued that the process will then hopefully work on its own, and if one vote over 50% is against the RSID then it is dead. Charles had spoken to Tom McKay about the RSID and how people are mad about the way the meeting was handled. He stated that Tom McKay has been going to the residents and explaining the situation.

Tom Sands stated that if the double chip seal does not hold up these people are going to be madder than they are now. Dave stated the county is going to build the base. Mike Pence stated the committee wanted a pilot project for a double chip seal, so the county is building the base, but if this is not a pilot project then it's a whole new ball game. He continued that the engineers will design the road.

Dave stated that at the MACRS Conference last week, Missoula County stated they were in the cost share program several years ago but felt it was a pain. Missoula currently uses \$200,000 of their budget and dust abates all their roads, but granted they have fewer roads to maintain. He continued that Flathead County is geared more towards the way Gallatin County is doing their program. The question was asked on how Missoula County picks the roads to be dust abated. Dave replied their commissioners make the decision, but it is a tough one to make.

6. Comments from Committee Members
7. Comments from Public (15 Minutes Maximum)
8. Adjournment

Karl Schrade made the motion to adjourn, Tom Sands seconded, all in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.